From: danayael@netvision.net.il
To: Ehud Barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com>
CC:
Date: Tue, 8/2/2011 9:19:51 PM
Subject: Fw: obituary

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone

From: jevajulia@sky.com
Date: Tue, 02 Aug 2011 17:16:04 +0100
To: <ehudb@knesset.gov.il>
Subject: obituary

To: Mr Ehud Barak M.K.

Shalom

My good friend Rolf Weinberg (Henri Rovey as he was known among the Free French Forces) who passed away on June 23rd often told me of his connection with you and how much he valued being in touch with you not only in the early post-war years but also more recently when voicing his concern about events in the Middle East.

I am sending you herewith the obituary which I wrote for the Journal of the Association of Jewish Refugees of which Rolf
was a member (as am I) and which was published on August 1st and which may be of interest to you.

I would appreciate a short acknowledgment of this e-mail.

Shalom

Yours sincerely

Walter E Goddard

Rolf Weinberg 1919 - 2011

The highest decorated Jewish officer in the Free French Forces under General de Gaulle's command, Rolf Weinberg died after a short illness on June 23rd in hospital with his loyal loving Ruth at his bedside. We shall not easily see the likes of Rolf again.

Born in 1919 in Herford, Westphalia, Rolf was hounded out of Germany by the Nazis in 1938. Once on the boat that was to take him to Montevideo, he vowed to fight the Nazis and anti – Semitism tooth and nail for the rest of his life.

His war time experiences are well-known not only through his book " David's Fight 1939-1946" but also through his many talks to JACS, Friendship Clubs and the like. How at the Battle of the River Plate at the behest of the British Embassy in Montevideo, he, with others, mingled with the crew of the German battle ship "Graf Spee" (which had entered Uruguayan waters for repairs) disseminating false intelligence of a large formation of British Naval ships gathering off

Montevideo, a policy that led the German commander of the "Graf Spee" to scuttle his ship.

After the fall of France in June 1940 Rolf was accepted to serve with the Free French Forces under the command of London based General de Gaulle.

After training in Camberley in 1941, Rolf as a Second Lieutenant left on a mission to Lebanon to investigate arrested German officers who were trying to penetrate the Free French Forces. From 1942 he served under General Koenig's 1st division of the FFF attached to Fieldmarshall Montgomery's 8th Army fighting from El Alamein to Tunis.

In 1943 he was one of a group transporting weapons captured from the Africa Korps to the Haganah in Israel where he met General Dayan Until the last Rolf maintained his connection with Israel's military and Mossad.

In 1944 Rolf's part in the liberation of France was to make contact with the French Resistance and he was decorated with the Medaille Militaire – the French equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Rolf also took part in General de Gaulle's victory parade in Paris, and moved with his forces to occupy Germany. He was later a member of the Free French Veterans in England and then received the order of Chevalier de la Legion d' Honeur. A rare decoration for a non- Frenchman.

After the war Rolf moved back to Montevideo; a short spell in Germany was followed by he and his wife Sara settling in Spain where they had a couple of successful men's fashion boutiques. Rolf lost Sara in 1988 and in 1990 he made the move to London where he was joined by Ruth, the partner of his youth. He joined the AJR and lived for some years at Paul Balint AJR Centre in Cleve Road. Furthermore in Belsize Square Synagogue he found his spiritual home.

Rolf Weinberg was much more than a decorated war hero. Those who are privileged to have known him have seen in him an upright, generous and loyal friend- forthright; not mincing his words nor hiding his opinions. Until the end he was fighting anti- Semitism and whilst he could laugh at a good joke (and tell some himself) he was a serious man, deeply troubled by the state of the world as it is today, as if all his efforts had been in vain. He was especially concerned about Israel and often he would confide in me " I have done my bit; I cannot do any more; God only knows how it will all end. There are no leaders with vision any more".

The world and the Jewish community have lost a great man.

Rolf Weinberg was born on March 6 1919 and died on June 23 2011 aged 92. He is survived by Ruth, three sons from his previous marriage, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Walter E. Goddard